



June 2001

Two AFRL Executives earn Meritorious Rank Honor *by Jill Bohn, AFRL Public Affairs*



Robert J. May Jr.



Raymond P. Urtz

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio — Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) executives Robert J. May, Jr. and Raymond P. Urtz were honored as recipients of the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award during a ceremony at the Pentagon on April 27.

Administered by the Office of Personnel Management, the award acknowledges a small group of career Senior Executives who have demonstrated leadership of vital federal programs, fostered partnerships and community solutions to achieve results, and continuously focused on promoting jobs more effective and efficiently.

May was selected for the award based on “his unique blend of technical expertise, business skills and sound judgment” in meeting schedule, cost and performance objectives.

As Propulsion Product Group Manager, Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, from 1997-1999, May was successful in the oversight of three geographically separate propulsion directorates with 5,000 employees and an annual budget in excess of \$2 billion. May was responsible for cradle-to-grave management of nearly every jet engine in the Air Force inventory, which includes over 22,000 engines in worldwide operation and is valued at nearly \$30 billion.

May forged an effective, integrated propulsion team that met numerous challenges from providing engine support for over 17,000 combat sorties flown by Air Force warfighters in Operation Allied Force to dealing with the turmoil associated with the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) decision to close a major Air Force engine depot.

May currently holds the position of AFRL Executive Director, Wright-Patterson AFB. He is the principal assistant to the commander and the senior civilian executive responsible for managing the Air Force’s more than \$2 billion science and technology program.

In his citing for the award, Urtz was credited for “extraordinary leadership from 1990 to 1999, in advancing science and technology in command and control for the warfighter.” This is the second time in seven years he has received the award. He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service (SES) in 1984 and received his first Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award in 1993.

As director of the Information Directorate, Urtz oversees an annual budget of more than \$500 million and directs the activities of nearly 900 military and civilian scientist, engineers, and administrative and support personnel. The directorate serves as the Air Force’s center for the advancement and application of information systems science and technology for aerospace command and control, and its transition to air, space and ground systems.

In 1993, BRAC identified Griffiss AFB, the host base for Rome Laboratory, for closure and directed the Rome Laboratory become a self-sufficient stand-alone facility. Under Urtz’s leadership support personnel requirements were reduced 55 percent compared to when Griffiss AFB was open, considerably lowering operating costs.

The Meritorious Executive award is given for long-term accomplishments to no more than five percent of career SES members. May and Urtz are among 10 Air Force executives and 287 from throughout the federal government to receive this year’s award. Currently there are 6,000 career members of the SES. @